

## WATER WORKS VERSUS CITY.

### The Lower House Will Be the Battle Ground for the Two Forces To-Night.

The meeting of the council to-night will be one of extraordinary interest. It is apparent now that the fight between the city and the National Water Works company which has been going on for two years will be transferred to the council and that in the lower house to-night a most important question will be brought to an issue.

Alderman Lowe's resolution declaring that after November 15 the city will be at the mercy of the water works company and calling on the council to appoint a committee of five from each house to investigate and report what should be done, will come up for adoption or reference by that body. It will be opposed with all the forces the administration can bring to bear. It is regarded by the part of the city as a palpable water works document, intended to pave the way for the introduction and passage by the council of the bill to pay the water works company \$37,980 hydrant rental.

Last Friday representatives of the company made an investigation of the financial standing of the city to obtain information as to the balances in the several funds, especially the water works fund. They found that the city has money to pay the disputed bill now in court, and for that reason the company is most solicitous that the Lowe resolution shall pass.

Mayor Cowberd will send a message to the council to-night in which he will deal vigorously with the resolution. He will ask the council to refuse to adopt it, and in support of his proposition will say that the controversy between the city and the company is in the courts, where it must necessarily go to be adjudicated; that the city's case is in charge of reputable and competent attorneys, and that the statement in the resolution declaring Kansas City to be at the mercy of the water works company is false. The company's adherents in the council are hard at work to-day trying to rally a strong enough force to compel the adoption of the resolution to-night. It is possible that the lower house will refuse to bow to the dictation of the water works company and that the resolution may be referred to a committee.

At its meeting to-day the auditing committee, composed of Auditor Crawford and Aldermen Hays and Muchschuster took a hand in the water works fight, practically checkmating the water works company in its endeavor to secure the disputed hydrant rental. The following resolution offered by Auditor Crawford was adopted and made a part of the official record on the back of the bill for \$37,980 for hydrant rental from January 1, 1892, to July 1 of the same year:

The within claim being in litigation in the suit of the National Water Works company versus Kansas City, and in the cross bill of the city against said company, we withdraw our approval and rescind our action in passing on said claim and hold it for further consideration of the auditing committee.

The three members of the committee signed the resolution.

This action on the part of the committee takes from the council the right to pass the bill. The charter provides that no bill against the city shall be passed by the council until it shall have been approved by the auditing committee. When the bill was audited nearly two years ago it had not then been made a part of the litigation. As it is now in dispute the committee felt justified in taking the course it did to protect the city.

Pending the outcome of this fight, which will show whether the company can control a majority in both houses, the talk of compromise is not so strong. Nothing has yet been heard from President Taintor, now in New York, although his answer to the city's proposition to buy the distributing plant in Missouri and the supply plant in Kansas is expected in a few days.

The taking of testimony in the case was resumed this morning. The extension of time granted the company by the court in which to complete its examination of witnesses and compilation of evidence will expire November 10. It is said that another trip to New York will be taken before that time.